



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Innovation & Excellence... Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

SS3-437

JUN 21 2004

June 16, 2004

Stephen J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Wright:

On behalf of our elected Board of Commissioners and the ratepayers of Grant County PUD, I want to express my appreciation to you and your staff for staying the course despite all the negative reactions to your summer spill proposal. Your efforts to replace the expensive summer spill program with less-costly alternatives that achieve the same biological benefits make sense for both salmon and the Northwest economy.

We are disappointed that the original proposal had to be modified, but understand your decision to craft a compromise given the controversial nature of these issues. The collaborative efforts between Grant PUD, BPA and other upper Columbia River dam operators on the new Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement demonstrate our mutual commitment to salmon protection measures. We were pleased to assist with voluntary efforts to implement additional weekend minimum flows as a portion of the proposed off-sets.

Grant County's agriculture-based communities are dependent on low cost energy to remain competitive. The entire Northwest is suffering from the effects of the electricity rate increases of the past years, and we encourage all of your efforts to reduce Bonneville's costs. The ratepayers who finance most of the Columbia Basin's fish and wildlife programs rightfully expect accountability and results.

We urge you to push forward with the summer spill plan you outlined on June 8, 2004, and we stand ready to assist your efforts to develop long-term solutions on these issues.

Respectfully,

Tim Culbertson, General Manager

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington

CC: Robert Lohn, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator
Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, US Army Corps of Engineers
Judi Danielson, Northwest Power & Conservation Council Chair
Melinda Eden, Northwest Power and Conservation Council Vice-Chair
Jim Kempton, Northwest Power and Conservation Council State Member
Ed Barlett, Northwest Power and Conservation Council State Member
John Hines, Northwest Power and Conservation Council State Member
Gene Defler, Northwest Power and Conservation Council State Member
Frank L. Cassidy Jr., Northwest Power and Conservation Council State Member
Tom Karier, Northwest Power and Conservation Council State Member
Jeff Koenings, WDFW Director
Representative Doc Hastings
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Senator Maria Cantwell
Washington State Senator Joyce Mullikan
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